(d) whether Air India will continue to offer such innovative schemes in future; and

(e) what steps are being taken to make travel by Air India more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) A total number of 3720 passengers availed themselves of the benefit of the scheme which was offered to First and Executive Class passengers only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Air India has earned additional revenue of Rs. 407.77 lakhs due to this scheme.

(d) and (e) Air India launches various attractive marketing initiatives/schemes at regular intervals.

High priority programme for air traffic managements at major airports

650.SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has prepared any plan on high priority basis for air traffic management at major airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ahmedabad International Airport which is lacking the International Standard is also included in this high priority programme of air traffic management;

(d) if so, the details of programme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) In addition to modernisation of air traffic system at Delhi and Mumbai, navigation and surveillance systems are being upgraded by installation of Secondary Surveillance Radars at Chennai, Calcutta, Trivandrum, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Nagpur, Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar. Installation work is in progress at Chennai and Calcutta and the system has been installed at Hyderabad, Guwahati and Trivandrum.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. At Ahmedabad airport, Airport Surveillance Radar, Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar, and extended range ground to air VHF communication equipment will be installed.

(e) Does not arise.

Communication from the Federation of Indian Exporters for Readjustment of Rupee

651.SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE to pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports have come down by 10.8% in April which is historic decline and, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have received any communication from the Federation of Indian Exporters for readjustment of the rupee in the wake of continual flow of dollars through portfolio investments, and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the latest information from DGCI&S exports during April, 1997 showed a decline of 9.9% over April, 1996. While slow down in the growth rate of world trade and sector specific problems are the major reasons, the transporters strike which lasted more than a week is believed to have affected movement of export goods and hence export performance.

(b) The Federation of Indian Export Organisation has called for readjustment of the value of the rupee in the wake of the continuous flow of dollars through portfolio investments and also in the light of the devaluation effected in the prominenet Asian countries like Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and China as also the indirect devaluation of some of the European currencies against US dollar.

(c) The implications of the hardening of the rupee, are many and have to be viewed in the context of the high import intensity of India's exports, possible competitive devaluation by